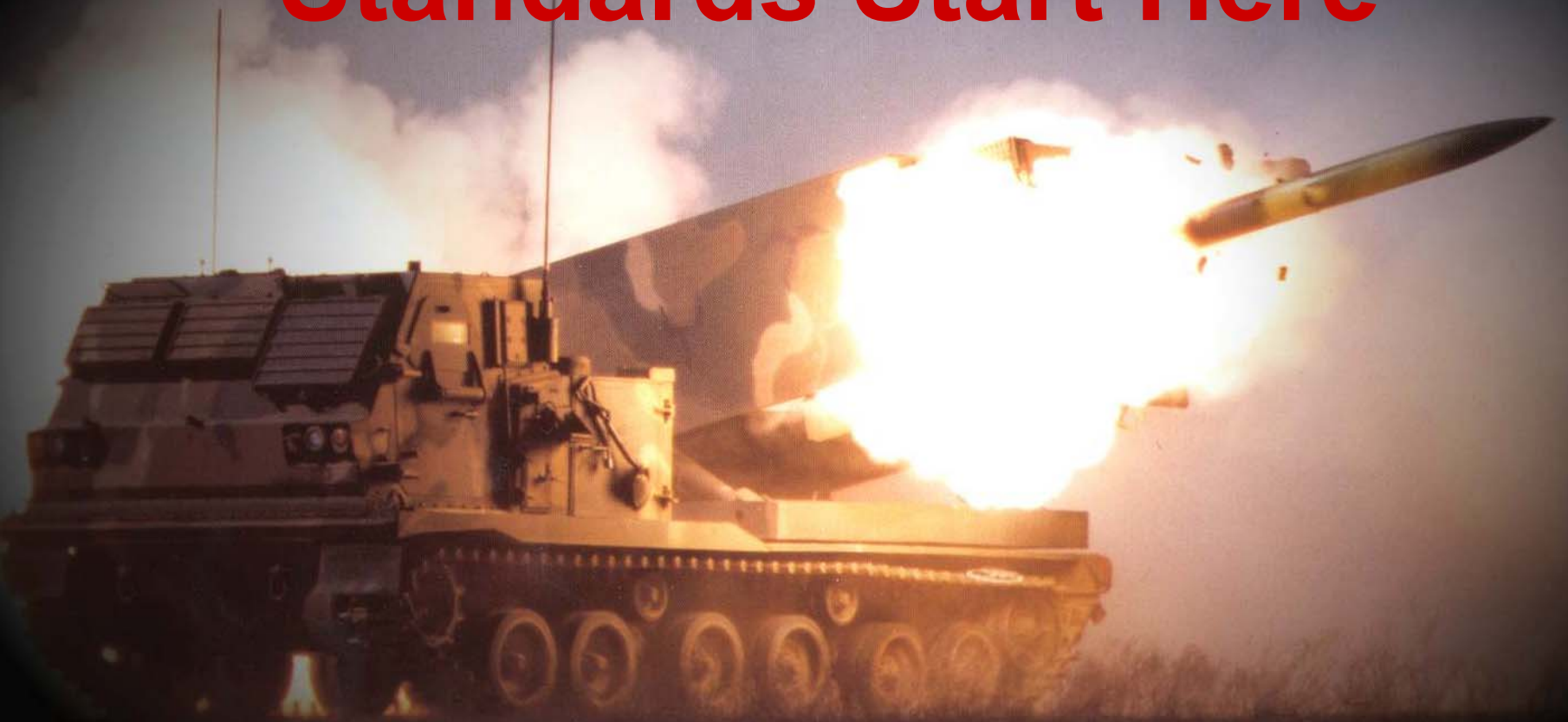


***Gunnery Department
MLRS Division***

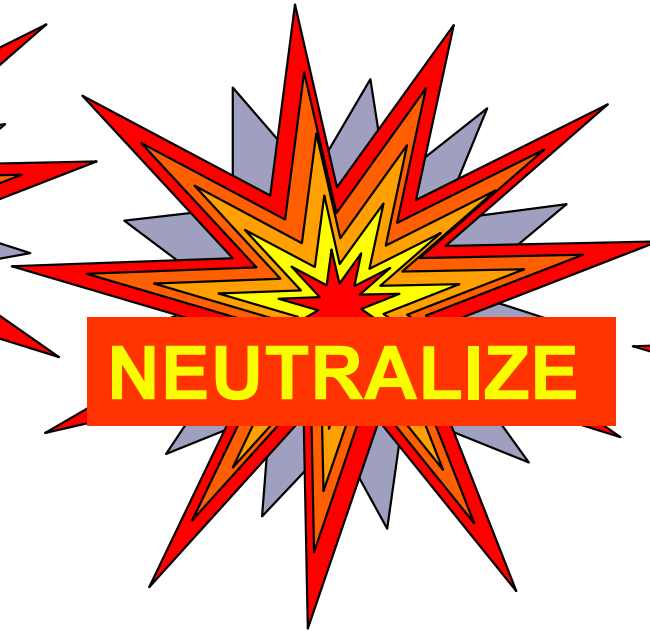
“Standards Start Here”



Field Artillery Captain's Career Course

MLRS DOCTRINE AND TACTICS

The Mission of the Field Artillery is to...



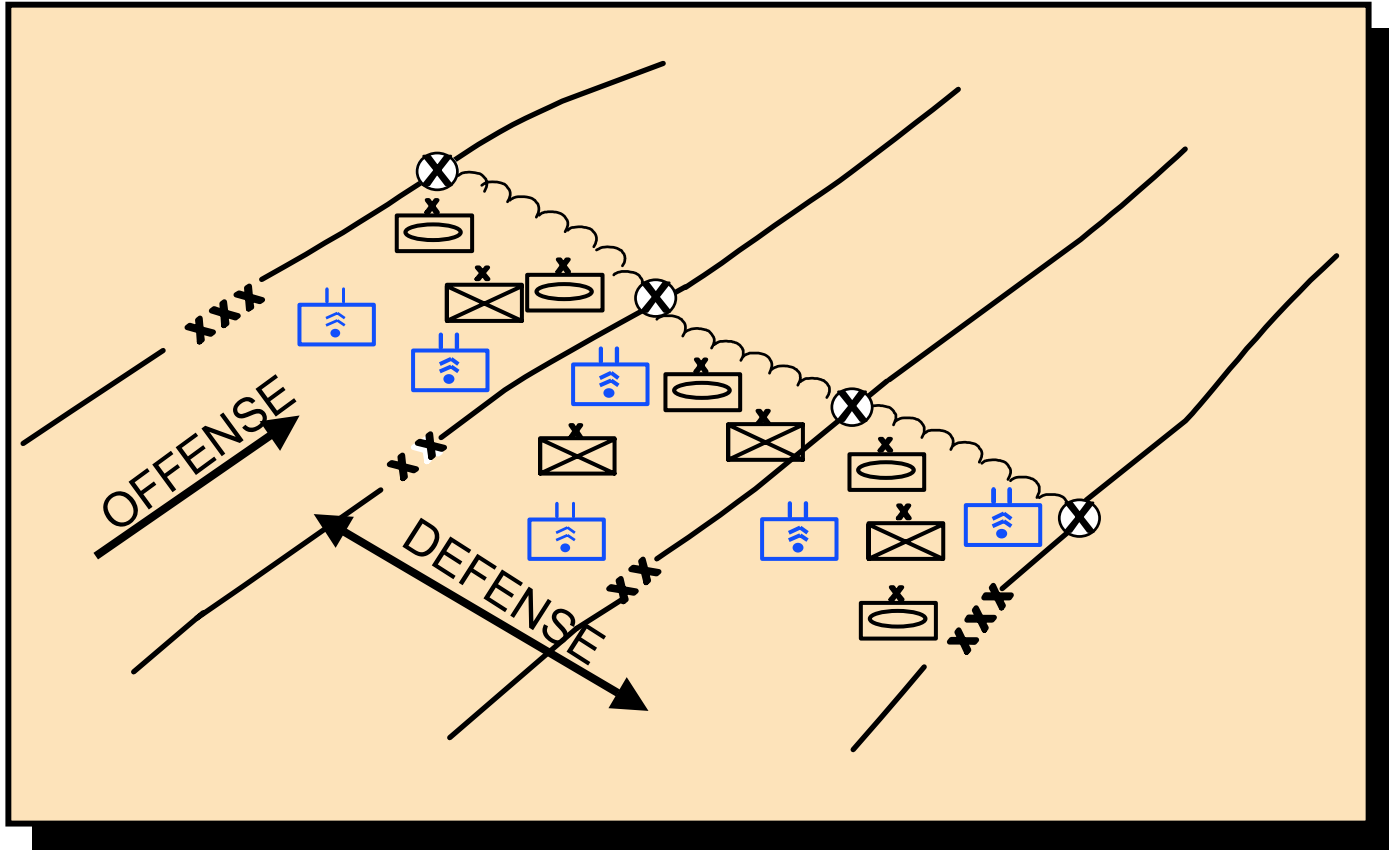
the enemy by cannon, **ROCKET** and **MISSILE** fire
and to help integrate all fire support assets into
combined arms operations.

Learning Activities

- Identify MLRS Employment Considerations
- Identify the Command Relationship
- Identify MLRS Tactical Missions
- Acquire knowledge in MLRS Organization and Operations
- Identify procedures used in Reconnaissance, Selection, Occupation of Position

MLRS Employment Considerations

Employment Considerations



MLRS units are positioned as close to the FLOT as possible, and in some cases beyond the FLOT.

Employment Considerations

MLRS is a highly mobile, rapid fire, surface-to-surface, free-flight rocket and guided missile system designed to:

- Complement cannon artillery
- Attack the enemy deep
- Strike at counterfire, air defense and HPT

Employment Considerations

Offensive:

- Provides close support
- Moves with supported maneuver forces
- Stops to fire then rejoins formation

Defensive:

- Fires deep against enemy artillery
- Moves laterally along FLOT

Employment Considerations

System Capabilities

- Range
- Organizational Structure

Close Operations

- Counter fire
- Raids
- SEAD (**S**uppression **E**nemy **A**ir **D**efense)

Deep Operations

- ATACMS Block I and IA
- D³A Methodology

Employment Considerations

Rear Operations

- Area fire weapons system
- Not the weapon system of choice

Positioning

- Survivability
 - Limited crew served weapons
 - Enemy target Acquisition
- Communications

Employment Considerations

Planning and Coordination

- Launcher redundancy
 - Rocket Fires (short of FSCL)
 - Missile fires (beyond the FSCL)
- Fire Support Planning
 - Configuration Time
 - Reaction Time
 - Launcher Response Time
 - Munitions Load

Command Relationship

Command Relationship

Establish a command relationship.

- Organic
- Attached
- Assigned
- OPCON

Assign a tactical mission.

- General Support (GS)
- General Support Reinforcing (GSR)
- Reinforcing (R)
- Direct Support (DS)

Command Relationship

- OPTION 1 - Corps retains direct control of the MLRS battalion (GS).
- OPTION 2 - Corps attaches MLRS battalion to an FA brigade but still establishes priorities of fire (GS sometimes GSR).
- OPTION 3 - Attach the battalion or battalion(-) to a division (GSR/R).

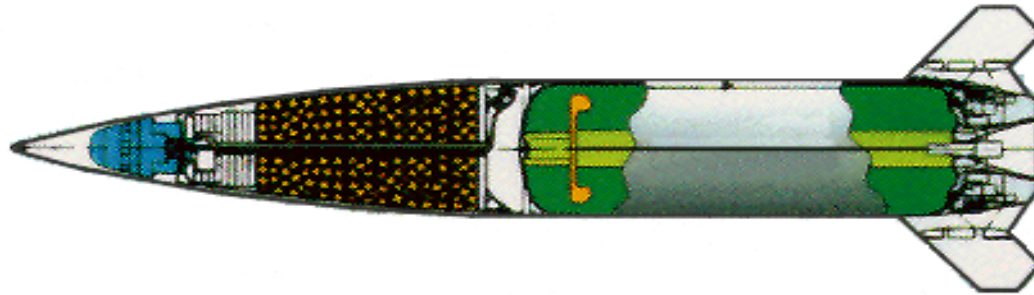
Retains Direct Control (GS)

To support corps operations, the Corps TOC Coordinates for :

- Movement
- Positioning
- Delivery of fires
- Combat Service Support (CSS)

Retains Direct Control (GS)

Normally the corps commander uses this option to fire lots of these:



And none of these:

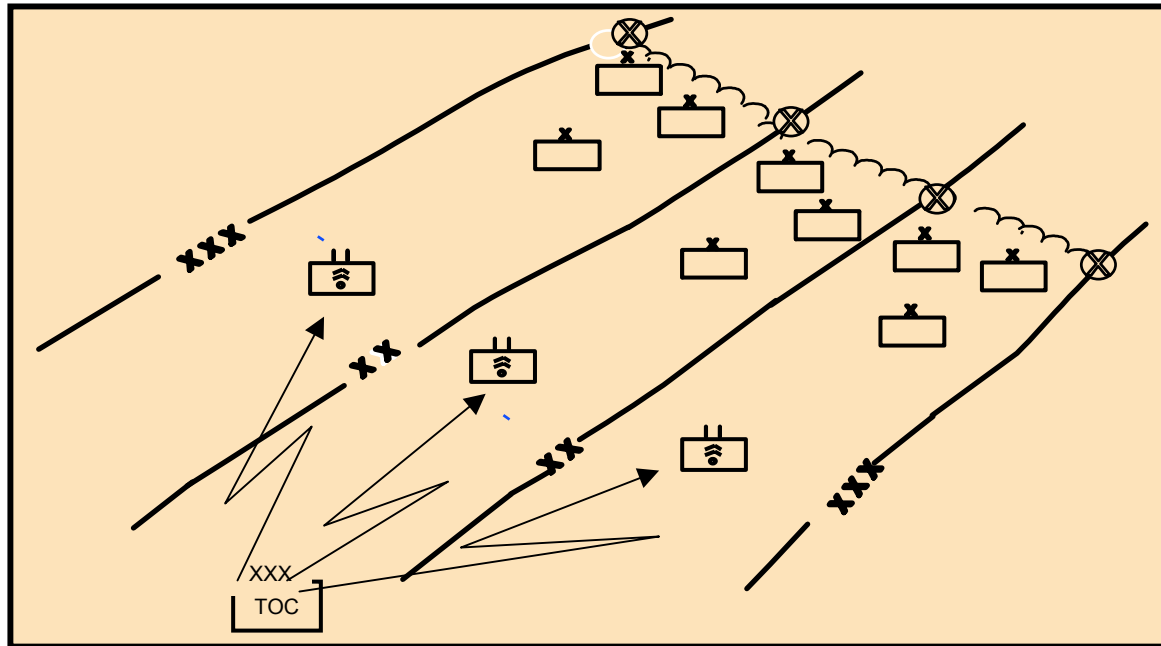


Retains Direct Control (Advantages)

- Receives targets directly from the Corps Fire Support Element or sensor platform
- Potentially the best option for supporting defensive operations

Retains Direct Control (Disadvantages)

Communications may exceed capabilities

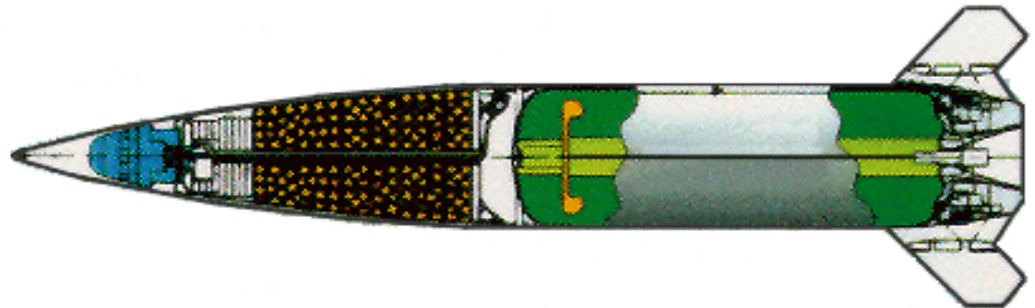
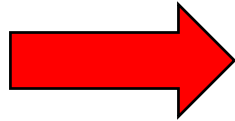


Terrain coordination is complex

Attached to a FA Brigade (GS or GSR)

Corps commander retains control with a GS or GSR mission

This



Or allocates priority of brigade fires to a division

Or this



Attached to a FA Brigade (Advantages)

- Better C² through the FA brigade.
- FA brigade more capable of supporting a MLRS unit.
- Corps commander can still establish priorities of fire.

Attached to a FA Brigade (Disadvantages)

- There is an increase in response times for FM;CFFs when the FA brigade fires are not allocated for a division.
- Terrain management can be complex.

Allocates Some or All of MLRS Units to a Division (GSR or R)

- Division further attaches the MLRS unit(s) to the DIVARTY
- Potentially the best option for supporting offensive operations

Allocates Some or All of MLRS Units to a Division (Advantages)

- Increases combat power available to the Division Commander
- Streamlines communications between the MLRS unit and the supported headquarters

Allocates Some or All of MLRS Units to a Division (Disadvantages)

- Reduces number of MLRS battalions immediately available to Corps
- FM;CFFs from Corps are degraded
- May be difficult for Corps to regain control of the MLRS unit

Tactical Missions

Tactical Missions

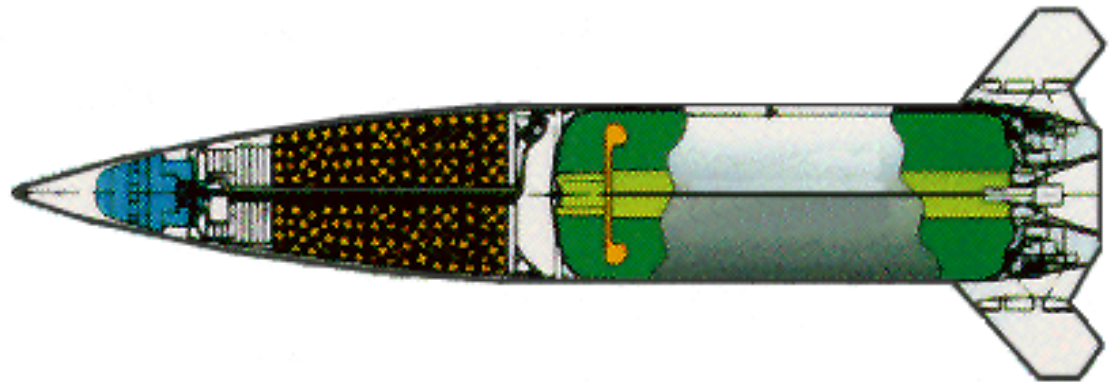
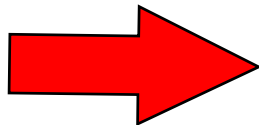
After establishing a command relationship, the force commander assigns the battalion a tactical mission. They are:

- General Support (GS)
- General Support Reinforcing (GSR)
- Reinforcing (R)
- Direct Support (DS)

General Support (GS)

- Provides fires for the entire force.
- Most centralized control.
- Provides force commander with the most responsive fires.

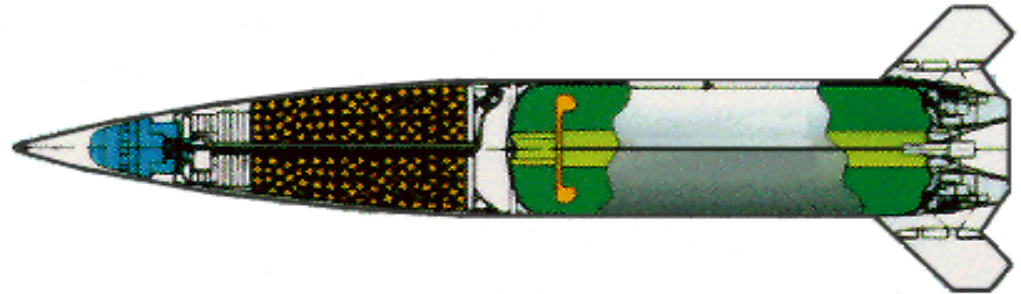
Typically these



General Support Reinforcing (GSR)

- Controlled by force FA HQs.
- Provides flexibility to meet the needs of various tactical situations.

Few of these



Many of these



Reinforcing (R)

- When reinforcing a DS battalion, LNO teams may be required at:
 - Battalion TOC
 - Force FA Fire Support Element
- MLRS ammunition expenditure may exceed resupply capability.

Lots of these!!



Direct Support (DS)

- No fire support element.
- Lacks diversity of ammunition.
- Area weapon system (Danger Close 2km).
- MLRS fires less responsive than cannon.
- Ammunition resupply (sustaining fires).
- Most often used to provide SEAD fires for attack aviation.

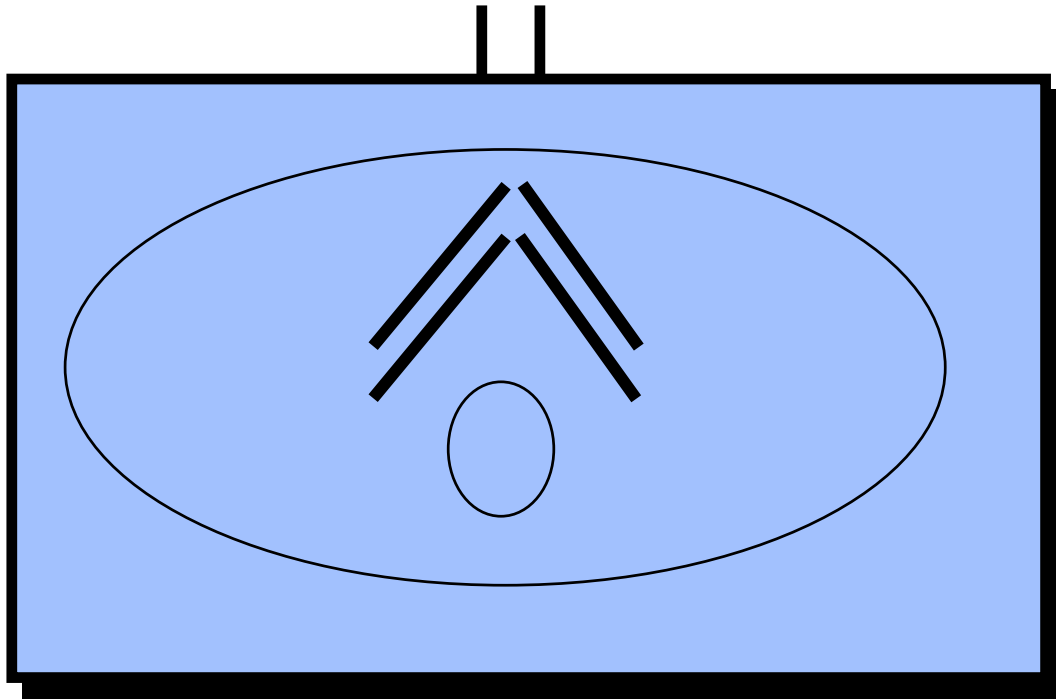
Non-Standard Mission

- Normally when a MLRS unit is required to handle more than one tactical mission
- When MLRS is the only weapon system available
- Aviation brigade, Marine Corps

Organization and Operations

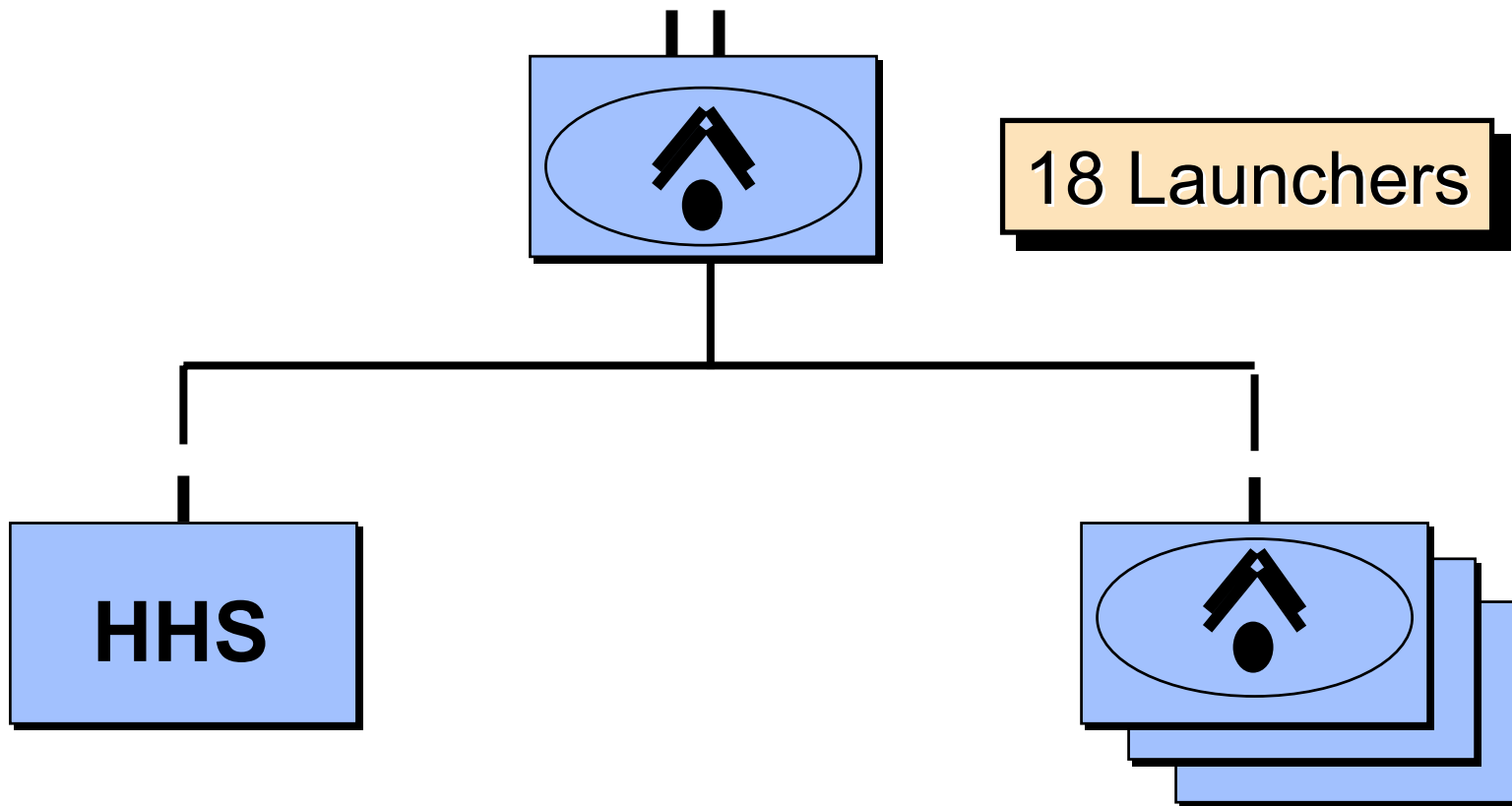
Organization and Operations

Battalion



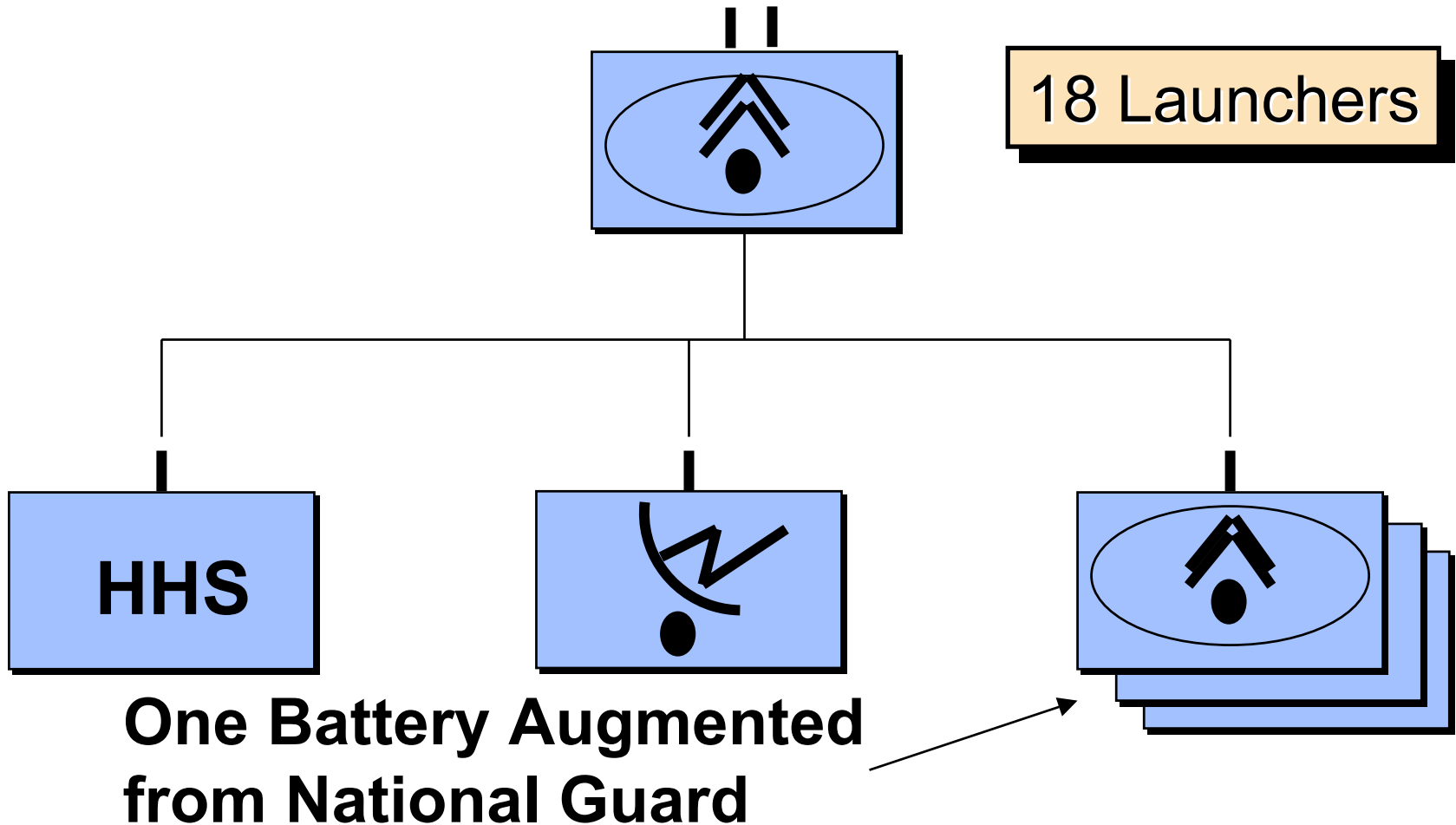
Corps MLRS BN Organization

3x6 Configuration



MLRS Divisional Battalion

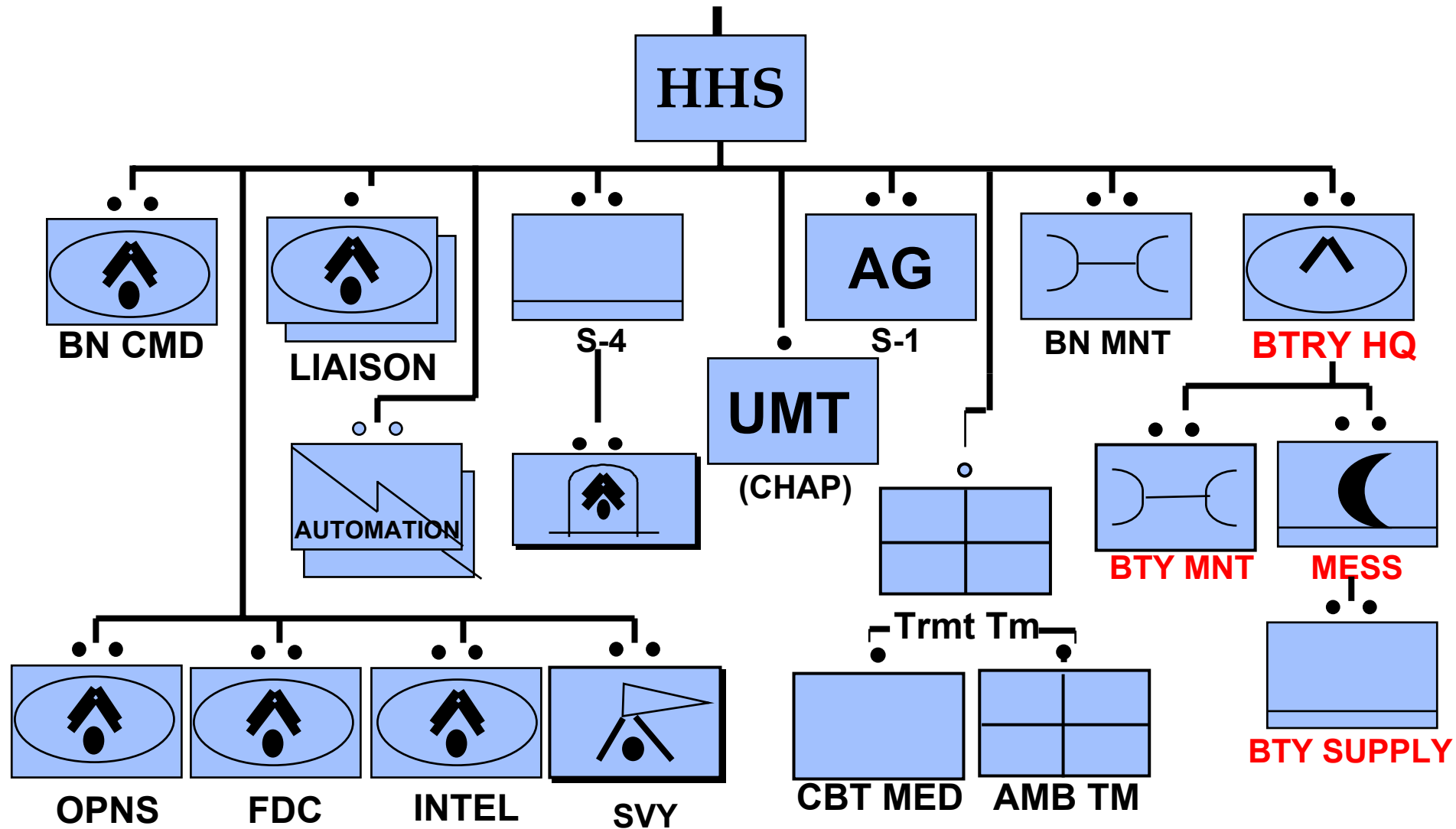
3x6 Configuration



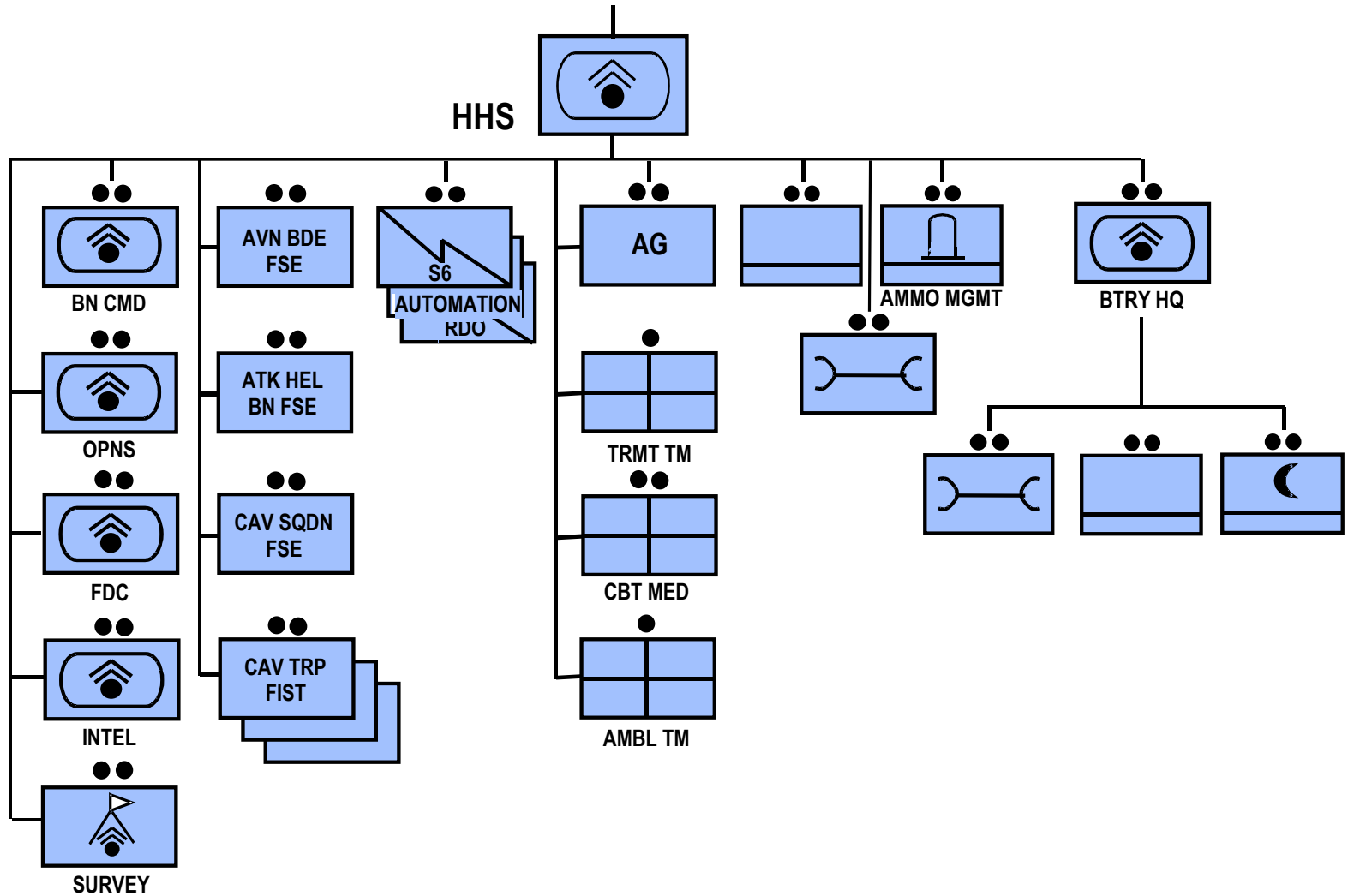
HHS Functions

- Command and control the batteries
- Provide tactical fire direction
- Provide liaison to controlling or reinforcing headquarters
- Provide admin and medical support for the batteries

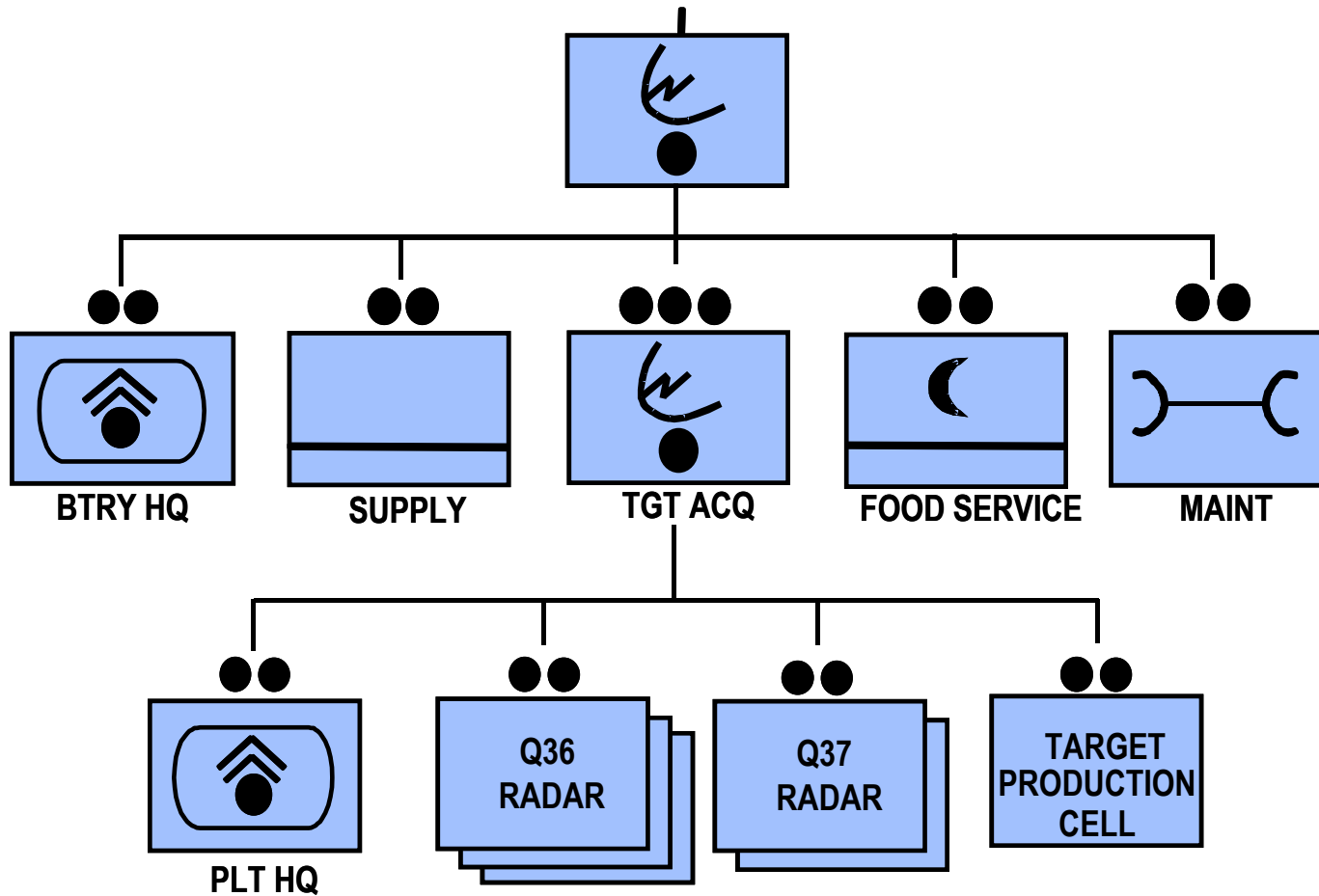
HHS Battery Organization



Divisional HHS Battery



Divisional HHS Battery TAB Organization



Key Personnel

- Intelligence Section
- Operations Section
- Logistics

Intelligence Section

- S2 Officer
- Radar WO (Targeting)
- Intelligence Sergeant
- MI NCO

Ops/Fire Direction Section

- Battalion S3 (MAJ)
- Operations Officer (CPT)
- Fire Direction Officer (CPT)

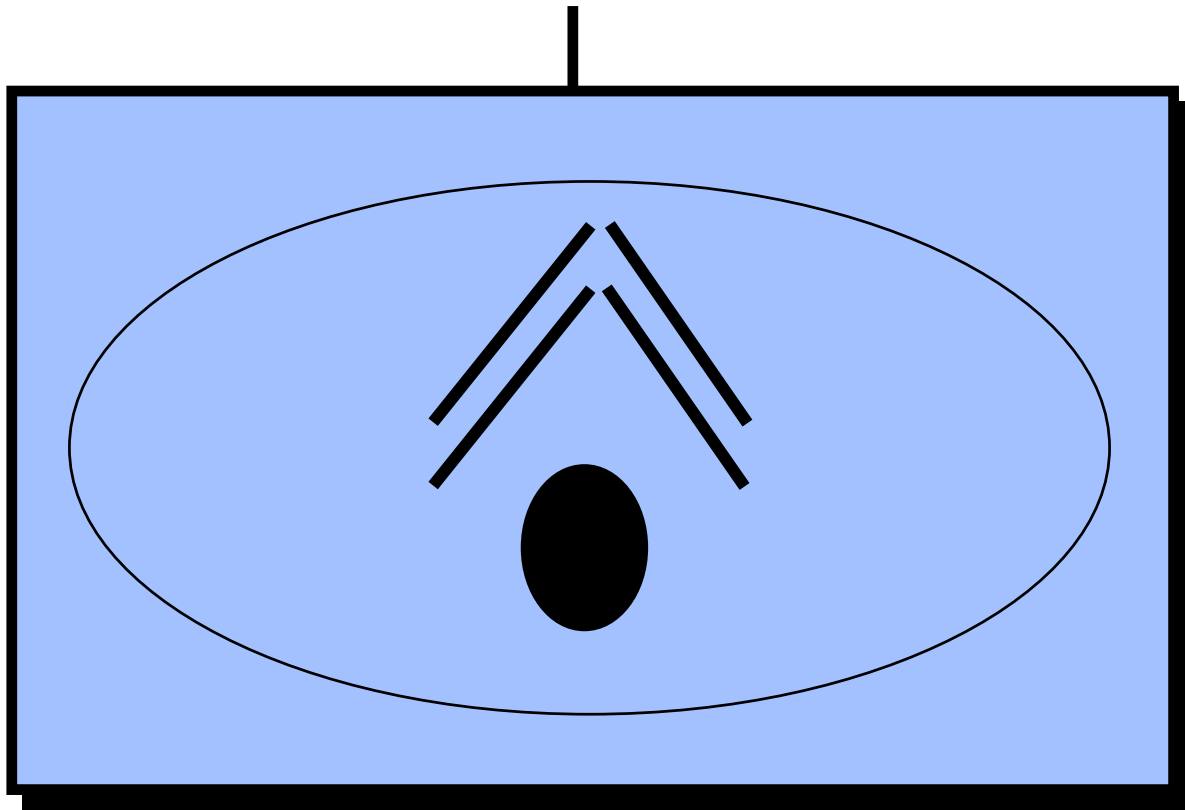
Liaison Section

- Liaison Officer(1LT)
- Liaison Sergeant (SSG)
- Driver (SPC)

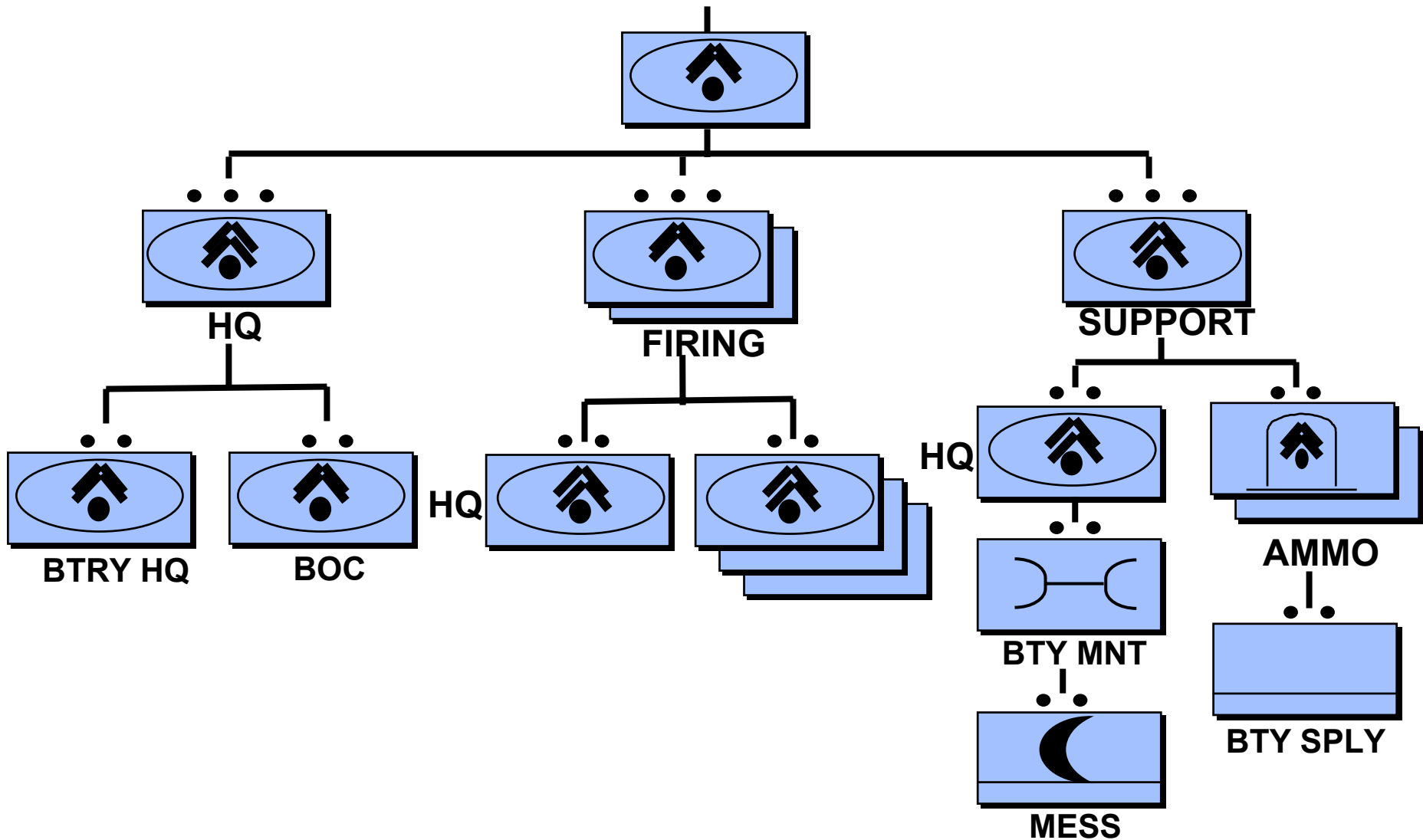
Battalion Logistics Section

- Executive Officer (MAJ)
- S1 (CPT)
- Maintenance Officer (CPT)
 - Maintenance Tech (CW2)
- S4 (CPT)
 - Property Book Officer (CW2)
- Physician Assistant (1LT)

Firing Battery



Firing Battery Organization



Key Personnel

- (CPT) Commander: Directs Battery in execution of tactical mission
- (1SG) First Sergeant: Assists in overall logistical coordination and LOC operations
- (1LT) Operations Officer: Supervises BOC and directs tactical Fire Direction
- (1LT) Support Platoon Leader: Overall logistics coordinator for the battery, specifically in the areas of Class V & IX

Firing Battery Operations

- Battery Operations Center (BOC)
- Logistics Operations Center (LOC)

BOC Functions (Fire Direction)

- Select Number of Rockets
- Down Range Mask Checks
- FSCM Checks
- Select Platoon/Launcher
- Transmit Fire Orders

BOC Functions (Tactical Operations)

- Plan, Recommend, Control Tactical Employment
- Disseminate Messages and Commands
- Control Survey Operations

Logistics Operations Center (LOC)

- Primary C² center for all admin log operations and battery defense
- Coordinates external support
- Ammo PLT LDR/1SG directly supervise LOC operations

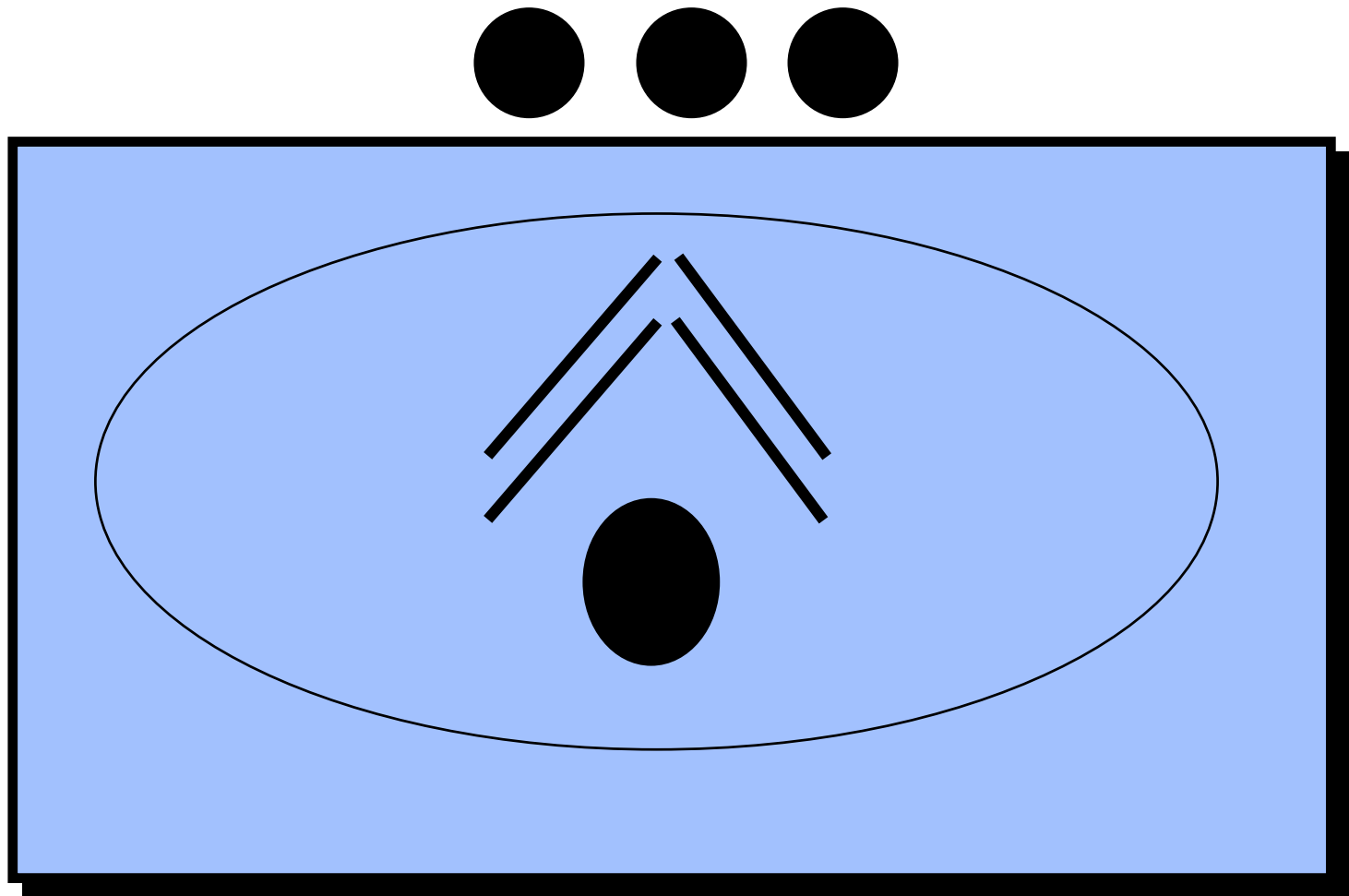
Movement (Displacement Options)

- Major Considerations:
 - Maneuver Unit Scheme of Maneuver
 - Continuous fire support
- Options:
 - Displace by platoon (preferred)
 - Displace by battery echelon
 - Displace by battery

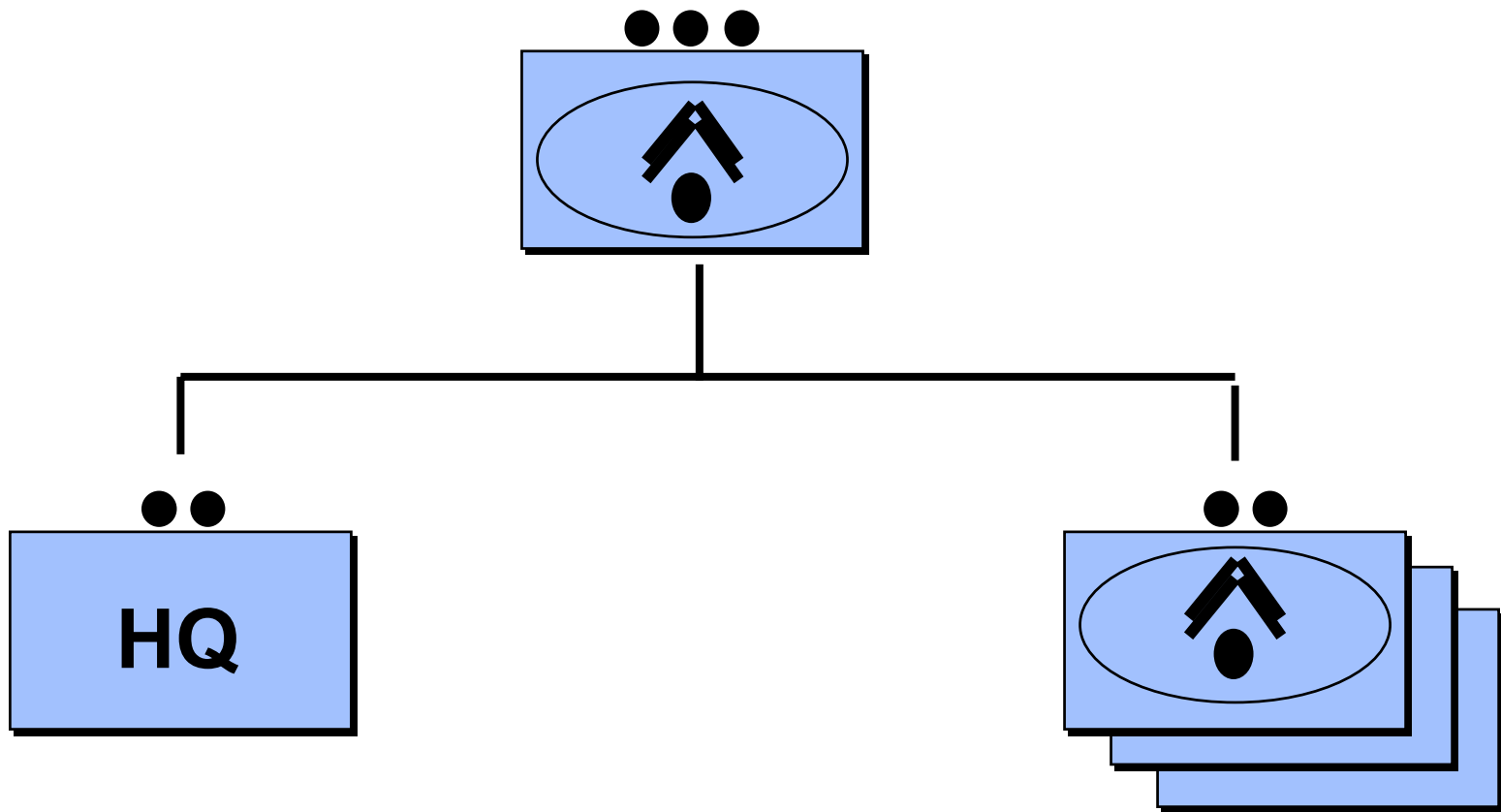


- Established to maintain C³ when BOC is moving, destroyed or FDS is non- mission capable.
- Establishes commo with higher HQ TOC, subordinate platoons and SPLs.
- Firing Platoon POC assumes control of battery.

The MLRS Platoon



Firing Platoon Organization



Firing Platoon Key Personnel

- Platoon Leader (2LT)
- Platoon Sergeant (SFC)
- Firing Section Chief x 3 (SSG)
- Fire Direction Chief (SGT)

Firing Platoon Operations

- Conducts operations under battery control
- Occupies separate OPAREA
- Platoon Leader RSOPs own OPAREA

Firing Platoon Responsibilities

- Reconnaissance Selection and Occupation of Position (RSOP)
- Monitor Communications between BOC and Launchers
- Posturing of Launchers and Munitions
- Platoon Defense
- Coordination of Platoon Logistics

Operational Area (OPAREA)

- 3km x 3km OPAREA (exact size is a function of METT-T)
- OPAREA can be used by other units
- Face to face coordination may be required
- Six Position types within an OPAREA

*Reconnaissance,
Selection, and
Occupation of a
Position*

RSOP

- **M**ission
- **E**nemy
- **T**errain
- **T**roops Available
- **T**ime Available
- **C**ivilian Considerations

Reconnaissance

Selection

and

Occupation of

Position

Types of Reconnaissance

- Map
- Air
- Ground

Map Reconnaissance

- Map: Preliminary to ground or air recon
- Advantages:
 - Fastest Method
 - Eliminates unsuitable routes
- Disadvantages:
 - Cannot determine terrain conditions
 - Other units and enemy may be in AO

Air Reconnaissance

- Air: Used in conjunction with map and ground
- Advantages:
 - Faster than ground recons
- Disadvantages:
 - Resources not readily available
 - Inaccurate picture of surface conditions

Ground Reconnaissance

- Ground: Most effective type of recon
- Advantages:
 - Can physically examine routes and positions
- Disadvantages:
 - Slowest type of recon

MLRS Firing Platoon Reconnaissance

- Generally consist of a hasty map reconnaissance followed by a
- Deliberate ground reconnaissance.

Reconnaissance Party

- Platoon Leader
- Recon Sergeant
- Optional Members / Vehicles
 - FDC Specialist
 - Launcher
 - HEMTT/HEMAT

Route Reconnaissance Considerations

- Existing routes and characteristics
- Bridges
- Fording, ferrying or swimming sites
- Tunnels and underpasses
- Obstacles--NBC, roadblocks, minefields
- Ambush sites
- Time and distance required

OPAREA Reconnaissance Considerations

- Communications with the BOC
- Open areas for Firing Points
- Defensibility/Dispersion of positions
- Cover and concealment
- Trafficability within OPAREA
- No major features interfering with OPAREA (i.e. river, highway)

Recon Considerations (Survey Control)

- Coordinate with BOC for survey priority
- Emplace SCPs along route, every 6-8 km if you must maintain firing capability
- Position vehicle on right side of stake
- Survey Control:
 - Primary -- PADS
 - Secondary -- PLGR

Reconnaissance
Selection
and
Occupation of
Position

OPAREA Position Types

- The Firing Area and Firing Point
- The Hide Area
- The Reload Point
- The Survey Control Point
- The Platoon Headquarters
- The Ammunition Holding Area

Firing Point (FP)

- 9 FPs per OPAREA / 3 per Launcher
- Section Chief selects firing point within 150m of reconned grid
- Communications with POC and BOC
- No immediate masks in direction of fire

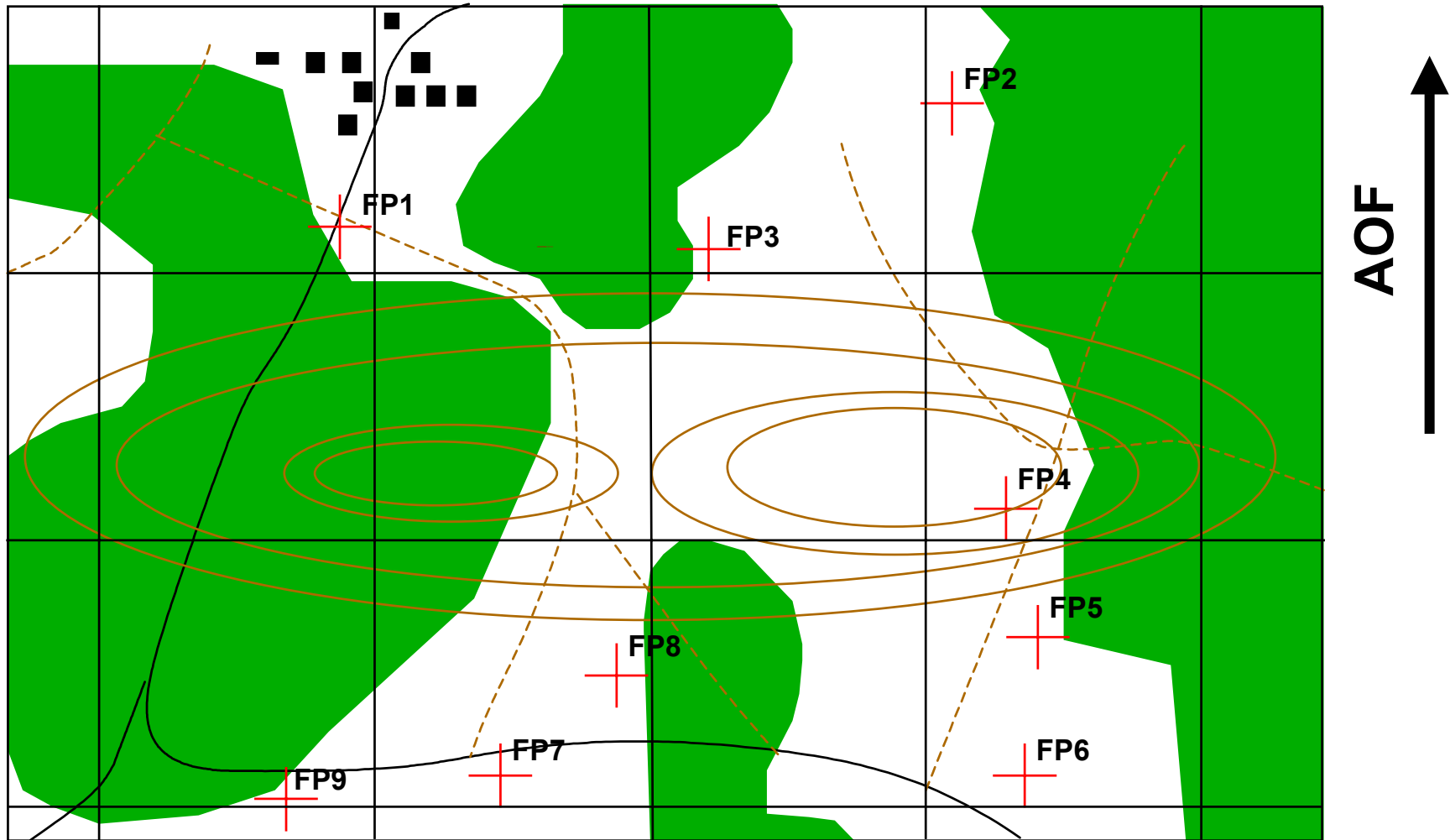
Firing Point (cont.)

- Used as launch point for fire missions
- Should be 500m from other FPs (800m preferred)
- Should be 800m from any other position type or element
- Firing Point and Hide Area can be same

Hide Area (HA)

- Used to conceal launcher while waiting for fire mission
- Section Chief selects Hide Areas
- Covered and concealed position within 100 meters of the firing point (wood line)

Firing Points and Hide Areas



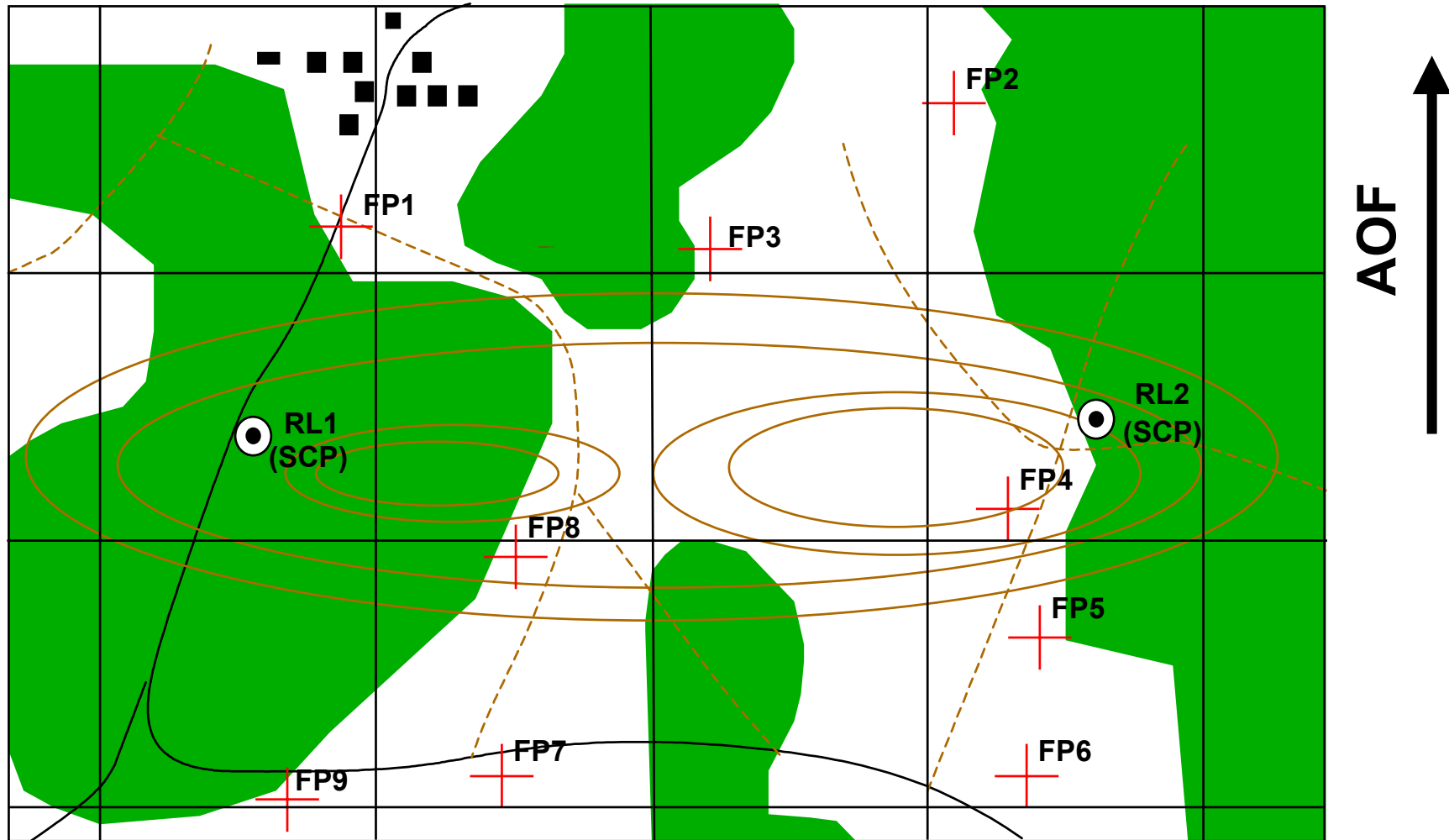
Reload Point (RL)

- Used to upload launchers with ammo
- At least 2 RLs in each OPAREA
- Room to maneuver HEMTT - HEMAT
- Firm, level ground
- Concealment for HEMTT nearby
- At least 800 meters from the FPs and 500 meters from any other element.

Survey Control Point (SCP)

- Used to update launcher PDS
- Minimum of 2 in each OPAREA
- Normally located with reload points
- Other possible locations for SCP
 - At the Release Point
 - At a launcher Firing Point / Hide Area

Reload Points and SCPs



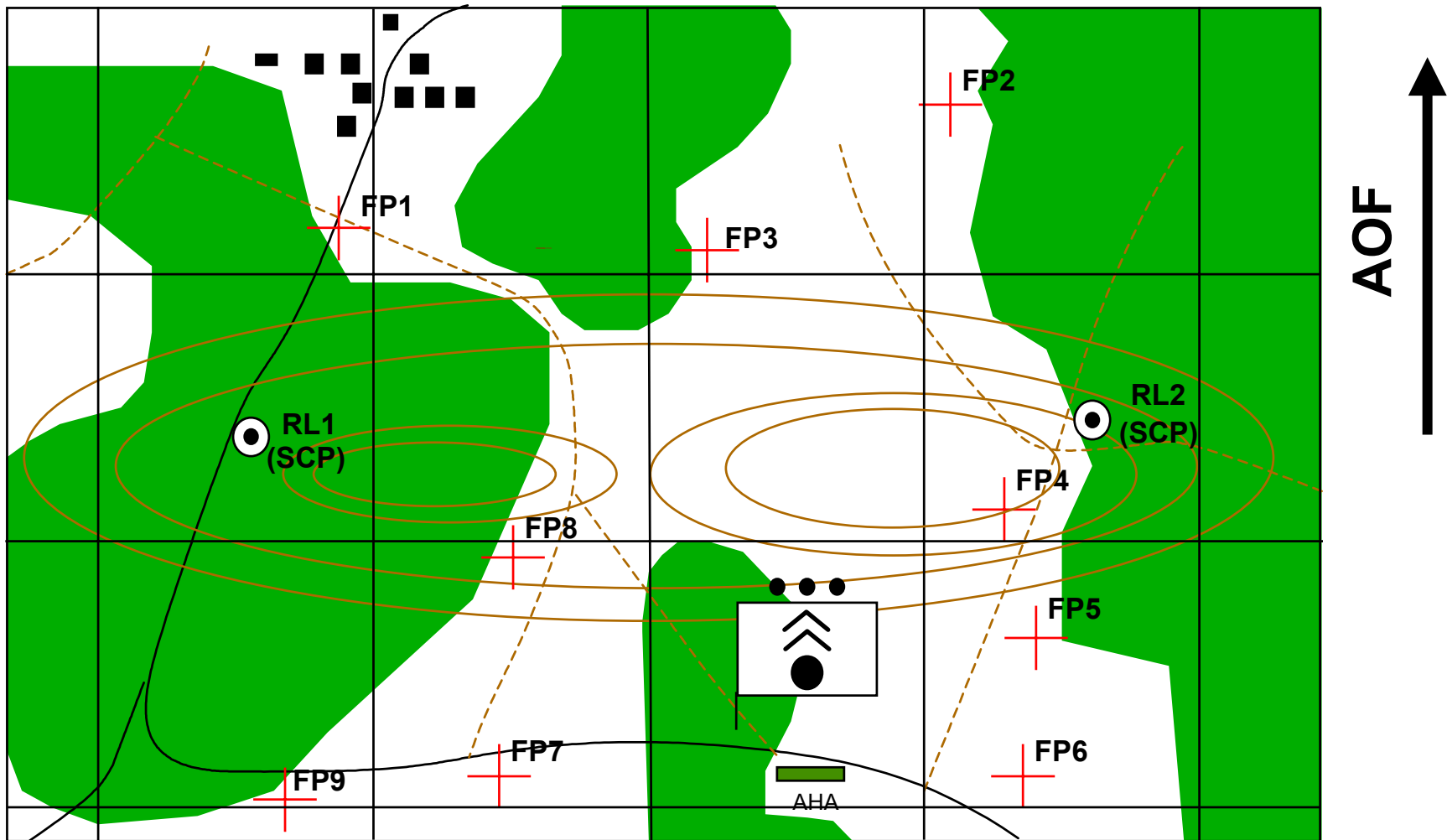
Platoon Headquarters (POC)

- Used to Command and Control Platoon
- Find primary and alternate POC location
- Communications with BOC and SPLs
- Cover and concealment
- Communications mask between position and enemy
- Trafficability

Ammunition Holding Area (AHA)

- Used to position HEMTTs waiting to download ammunition
- Cover and concealment
- Trafficability -- Proximity to the MSR
- Can be positioned 100 - 300 m from POC
- Defensibility with POC

Firing Platoon Operational Area



*Reconnaissance
Selection
and
Occupation of
Position*

Occupation of Position

- Platoon needs little position preparation
- Platoon Leader awaits platoon at RP
- Platoon Sergeant leads main body
- Launchers establish firing capability
 - receive OPAREA data
 - update SRP/PDS
 - reload (if necessary)
- Establish perimeter defense plan

Perimeter Defense Considerations

- Established by Platoon Sergeant
- Coordinate with other units in OPAREA
- Use claymore mines and trip flares
- Provide sections with rendezvous grids
- Emplace M60 / SAW on avenue of approach
- Dismount one man in launcher hide areas

Summary

- Employment Considerations
- Command Relationship
- Tactical Missions
- Organization and Operations
- Reconnaissance, Selection, Occupation of Position

***Gunnery Department
MLRS Division***

“Standards Start Here”

